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## Netherlands EU-27

**Post:** The Hague

### Dutch Government Recalls 50 Million Kg of Beef

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

Livestock and Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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**Report Highlights:**

On April 10, the Dutch Government announced to recall 50 million kg of beef products. The products contain possibly horsemeat and because the origin of the meat is unknown the safety cannot be guaranteed.

On April 10, 2013, the Netherlands Food and Consumer Products Safety Authority (NVWA) announced to recall about 50,000 MT of beef products. The NVWA sent a letter to 130 Dutch companies requesting to trace back and recall all meat sold as beef which they had bought from two Dutch wholesalers. The beef products possibly contain horsemeat. From investigation of the administration of the two suppliers the NVWA concluded that the origin of the meat cannot be assured. Because of the unknown origin of the meat the NVWA cannot guarantee the safety of the meat, and has to classify the meat as unfit for human and animal consumption. The buyers have two weeks time for their recall and are obliged to inform the NVWA of their actions.

The meat has been further sold to 370 companies throughout the EU. The NVWA informed the other EU Member States of the recall with the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), and requested the authorities to inform the buyers in their Member State.

FAS The Hague comments: Since 2007, EU beef consumption is declining mainly due to the limited domestic supply. In 2013, EU beef consumption is forecast to be reduced by about 0.25 percent to 7,785,000 MT (see the [EU Livestock Semi-Annual](#)). The recall is not expected to significantly further reduce EU beef consumption. Sector sources expect that most of the 50,000 MT has already been consumed as the tracing stretches back over a period of two years. Furthermore, the two wholesalers closed down their operation since the beginning of this year. The recall will cause, however, a temporary distrust of consumers towards processed meat products.